

Assembly, Senate Meet Deadline by Few Hours

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 Our 1965 special session is entering what we fondly hope will be its closing hours as it writes this. While our two hours seem at the moment to be deadlocked on our major task, the provision of additional funds to balance the \$4.19 billion budget which we sent to the Governor in the closing minutes of the regular session, everyone seems confident that a compromise will be reached before the midnight bell tolls the end of the current fiscal year.

As many observers had anticipated, the Senate and the Assembly took quite different approaches to the problem of budget balancing. The Senate revived its plans for raising the cigarette tax from the existing 3-cent per pack to 9 cents, for extending the sales tax to occasional sales of cars, planes, and boats, and for

taxing the lease of autos and business equipment at the 4 per cent sales tax rate. This program was estimated to produce \$251 million annually an added revenue, thus perhaps carrying the state into the 1966-67 fiscal year without levying more taxes.

MEET THE CHALLENGE!



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THE ASSEMBLY, which had passed an omnibus tax raise and reform bill in the regular session but failed to get it approved by the Senate, proposed a plan which would require no new taxes, but would speed up sales tax payments so that about \$100 million additional would be received in the 1965-66 fiscal year, instead of the following year. This would be accomplished by collecting the tax on a monthly basis, instead of the usual quarterly basis, during the latter part of the new fiscal year.

Each house stuck by its own program, so the bill was thrown into conference committee. This committee of three Senators and three Assemblymen is meeting right now in the effort to hammer out an acceptable measure. Two other revenue bills

were quickly killed in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. The first would have enabled car owners to purchase "personalized" license plates—with initials, special numbers, or the like—for a \$20 fee, plus the cost of production. The second would have imposed a state tax on telephone service, to replace the federal tax which starts to taper off the first of the year.

OTHER ISSUES which the various proclamations authorize us to consider in this special session are the different stages of progress, and right now it is difficult to predict which, if any, will be passed. An important bill to provide medical care insurance for the aged, and thereby let California qualify for about \$60 million in federal funds per year toward the cost of the program has been approved

by the Assembly after about \$8 million in state grants to counties for welfare was deleted. However, the Senate Finance Committee has already buried a similar bill, so the eventual outcome is doubtful.

Senate and Assembly bills to provide funds for a Lake Tahoe state park differ widely as to the acreage to be bought, and the amount appropriated, so what may finally emerge cannot be predicted. A bill with the ostensible purpose of improving the licensing of homes for the aged has been introduced, but its fate is also questionable. At almost the last minute, we were authorized to consider retirement benefits for Legislators affected by reapportionment, and a bill for that purpose should have a good chance, if the clock does not work against it.

Singers to Give Program

A variety concert will be presented by the Long Beach Chapter of the SPEBSQSA, Inc. in The Wayfarers' Chapel Amphitheatre, Portuguese Bend, Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Bart Terrell will direct and Charles Cartin will serve as master of ceremonies. Songs will include "Laura Bell e Lee," "Halls of Ivy,"

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